

Amendment

Reply to Final Office Action dated August 29, 2007

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated August 29, 2007. This amendment is timely filed.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 9-15, 17-21 and 23 were pending. In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 13 and 15-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,101,985 to Baumann in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,692,498 to Niiranen. Claim 23 was allowed. Claims 13 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable in rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant is not conceding in this application that the non-allowed claims are not patentable over the cited prior art. Nevertheless, in the interest of facilitating expeditious prosecution, the subject matter of claim 13 has been added to claim 1, which is thus in condition for allowance. The subject matter of claim 13 has also been added to claim 15, which is also believed to be allowable. The dependent claims are believed allowable because of their dependence upon allowable base claims, and because of the further features recited. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the non-allowed claims and other claims in one or more divisional or continuation applications.

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is thus believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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